

Serial No: 09/878,185

Attorney Docket No.: 30015421-2 (1509-187)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1- 11 . (*Cancelled*)

12. (*Previously presented*) A method of operating a computer entity comprising at least one data processor, and a data storage device for automatically admitting or rejecting a new user account onto said computer entity, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to a request to add a new user account to said computer entity:

- (i) generating a prediction of future utilization of data storage capacity required by said requested new user account for a predetermined look-ahead period;
- (ii) for each of a plurality of user accounts currently installed on said computer entity, determining a predicted future utilization of capacity by said user account;
- (iii) from said result of steps (i) and (ii), determining an overall predicted future utilization of said functionality of said computer entity over said predetermined look-ahead period;
- (iv) determining a currently available unutilized functionality of said computer entity, unused by any of said current user accounts;
- (v) comparing said currently unused functionality with said predicted future utilization of functionality; and
- (vi) depending upon a result of said comparison, allowing or disallowing entry of said new user account onto said computer entity.

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13. *(Previously presented)* The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the step of:
(vii) generating an alert signal if, as a result of said comparison step, said predicted future utilization of functionality is within a predetermined percentage of said currently available unused functionality.

14. *(Previously presented)* The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
displaying an alert message describing a condition that a predicted future utilization of functionality is close to a currently unused functionality; and
allowing modification of a level of comparison at which said alert message is triggered.

15. *(Cancelled)*

16. *(Previously presented)* A computer entity for performing the steps of claim 12.

17. *(Cancelled)*

18. *(Previously presented)* A memory or machine-readable medium programmed to cause a computer to perform the method of claim 12.

19. *(Cancelled)*

20. *(Cancelled)*

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